

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 IO-10 /086 W

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P 271342Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 2406

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON UK

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

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NEA/ARP FOR AMBASSADOR TWINAM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, PFOR, BA

SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY DISSOLVED: NEW ELECTIONS "POSTPONED";
CONSTITUTION PARTIALLY "SUSPENDED"

REFERENCE: MANAMA 0998

1. ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 26, THE AMIR OF BAHRAIN ISSUED
A DECREE DISSOLVING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BAHRAIN.

2. FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF THE DECREE, THE AMIR ISSUED AN
ORDER, CITING THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND UNITY,
STATING THAT: (A) NEW ELECTIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY ARE
"POSTPONED" UNTIL A NEW ELECTION LAW IS ISSUED; (B)

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ARTICLE 65 AND OTHER ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH

CONTRADICT ARTICLE (A) ARE "SUSPENDED"; AND (C) THAT HE (THE AMIR) AND THE CABINET ASSUME LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD.

3. COMMENT: SO THE AMIR HAS TAKEN THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL STEP, WHICH HAS BEEN CLEARLY INTENDED FOR SOME TIME (REFTEL), OF SUSPENDING THAT PART OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH REQUIRES NEW ELECTIONS TO BE HELD WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY. THE AL KHALIFAS HAVE NOW PLAYED THEIR HAND. THE NEXT QUESTION IS WHETHER THE ASSEMBLY, EITHER THIS ONE IN PARTICULAR OR THE INSTITUTION AS SUCH, HAS A CONSTITUENCY ON THE ISLAND WHICH CAN EFFECTIVELY ASSERT ITSELF. INITIAL PUBLIC REACTIONS TO THE POLITICAL DEVELOPEMENTS OF THE PAST FIVE DAYS WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT IT DOES NOT. END COMMENT.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER IS QUOTED IN AN ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY DATED AUGUST 27 THAT "THIS DOES NOT MEAN WE HAVE RENEGED ON THE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY EXPERIMENT. WE SHALL CONTINUE IT AFTER A BREATHING SPELL THAT WOULD PROVIDE A CHANCE FOR RE-EVALUATING THE EXPERIMENT AND INTRODUCING SOME NECESSARY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO IMPROVE IT". BAHRAINIS, DESCENDANTS OF DEEP SEA PEARL DIVERS, ARE KNOWN FOR AN ABILITY TO HOLD THEIR BREATH FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

BURLEIGH

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Message Attributes

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06 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, PFOR, BA
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